

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2551

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC, TECH, CH, US
SUBJ: US-PRC STUDENT EXCHANGES

REFS: A. STATE 189138; B. STATE 059032; C. STATE 62936;
D. PEKING 2456; E. PEKING 2442

1. SUMMARY. DURING RECENT WEEKS, USLO HAS LEARNED OF SEVERAL PROPOSALS FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGES SUBMITTED TO THE PRC BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE US. DELEGATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURG AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY VISITED PEKING AND MET WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THESE PROPOSALS. CHINESE HAVE EXPRESSED POSITIVE INTEREST IN THE STANFORD PLAN FOR SENDING POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS IN BASIC SCIENCES WITH PRC PAYING COSTS. CHINESE INDICATED THEY EXPECT TO CONDUCT CERTAIN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT STUDENT EXCHANGES WITH THE US, BUT ALSO WISH TO MAINTAIN DIRECT RELATIONS WITH CERTAIN UNIVERSITIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. STANFORD UNIVERSITY SUBMITTED ACADEMIC COOPERATION PROPOSALS TO THE CHINESE DURING A VISIT MARCH 17-22 TO THE PRC BY A GROUP HEADED BY WILLIAM MILLER, STANFORD PROVOST (SEE REF B). IN THEIR PROPOSALS THESE FIELDS OF COOPERATION WERE INCLUDED: HIGHER ENERGY PHYSICS AND SYNCHROTRON RADIATION; CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING; BIOCHEMISTRY AND
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GENETICS; COMPUTER SCIENCE; ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND APPLIED PHYSICS; MECHANICAL ENGINEERING; ENERGY STUDIES; ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND WATER STUDIES; LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE TEACHING FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

3. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE MARCH VISIT, A SEVEN-MAN STANFORD UNIVERSITY GROUP LED BY JOHN LEWIS, PROFESSOR OF CHINESE

POLITICS, AND DOUGLAS MURRAY, DIRECTOR OF THE CHINA PROJECT AT STANFORD, VISITED PEKING FROM JULY 10 THROUGH 15 AT THE INVITATION OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CPIFA).

4. IN A JULY 14 MEETING WITH THE SECOND STANFORD GROUP, CHIN LI-SHENG, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL, CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, NOTED THAT THE PRC EXPECTED TO CONDUCT CERTAIN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT EXCHANGES THAT WOULD LEAD TO CONCRETE RESULTS. IN THESE THE US SIDE WOULD DECIDE HOW TO ALLOCATE THE CHINESE TRAINEES TO UNIVERSITIES. HOWEVER, THE PRC ALSO WANTED TO MAINTAIN DIRECT RELATIONS WITH CERTAIN UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING STANFORD.

5. THE CHINESE INDICATED A STRONG DESIRE TO SEND STUDENTS TO STANFORD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, I.E. AUGUST IF IT COULD BE WORKED OUT. THE STANFORD GROUP INDICATED THAT IT CAN ARRANGE TO HAVE STUDENTS COME TO STANFORD DURING THE FALL QUARTER AND BEGIN CLASSES IN THE WINTER QUARTER. STANFORD HAS ALREADY SET UP A SPECIAL S&T ORIENTED ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE. JOHN LEWIS SAID THAT STANFORD WAS THINKING OF POSSIBLY 6 OR 7 CHINESE STUDENTS TO BEGIN WITH.

6. THE CHINESE MADE THREE PROPOSALS OF THEIR OWN IN RESPONSE TO THE STANFORD OFFER:

A) THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEND AS MANY POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS
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AS STANFORD CAN ACCEPT ASAP. THEY WOULD BE IN THE BASIC SCIENCES, E.G., PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, MATH, BIOCHEMISTRY, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, ETC. THE CHINESE SIDE WOULD PAY THE COST.

B) THE CHINESE WOULD LIKE TO SEND SOME PERSONS OVER 40 YEARS OLD TO DO EXPERIMENTS AND WORK WITH THEORISTS. THESE PEOPLE HAVE WORKED IN CHINESE LABS FOR 20 YEARS OR MORE AND WERE STRONG IN PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WHILE WEAK IN FORMAL TRAINING.

C) THE CHINESE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEND SEVERAL SMALL GROUPS OF SENIOR PEOPLE TO WORK IN FIELDS SUCH AS COMPUTERS, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, ETC.

7. IN A JUNE 17 LETTER TO THE PRC MINISTER OF EDUCATION, WESLEY W. POSVAR, CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURG, PROPOSED THAT HIS SCHOOL AND THE PRC ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM. UNDER THIS PROGRAM, SIX PRC STUDENTS, EITHER UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE, WOULD ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURG WITHOUT CHARGE FOR TUITION, ROOM, BOARD, OR BOOKS, TO STUDY ANY FIELD FOR WHICH THEY WERE QUALIFIED. ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS WOULD BE \$30,000 PER YEAR.

8. AS REPORTED REFTTEL E, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY HAS INITIATED A SMALL-SCALE EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN THE FIELD OF GENETIC RESEARCH.

9. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A GROUP FROM UCLA IS EXPECTED TO BE IN PEKING IN SEPTEMBER TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON EXCHANGES WITH THE PRC. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS HAS SUBMITTED PROPOSALS TO THE PRC FOR SOME TYPE OF ACADEMIC EXCHANGE, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW THE DETAILS. WOODCOCK

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